

# A.S.P.I.R.E. (Accessing Services Promoting Experiences In Real Environments) Program



**South LaPorte County Special Ed. Cooperative is Making it Happen!**



**WE ARE** the South LaPorte County Special Education Cooperative A.S.P.I.R.E. Program.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** include families from five area school corporations. Currently, all students age 14 and older, enrolled in high school in a direct transition program are participating in a level of our services. This includes in school pre-vocational training, job coach-supported volunteerism in the community and an independent internship opportunity with minimal staff support in a competitive employment location in our community. We reach approximately seventy students following this model.

## **OUR PROMISING PRACTICE**

*Involves the belief that all students can learn and that learning in authentic settings is the best practice model to follow. The ASPIRE program represents a tiered approach to providing skilled experiences for students in a variety of employment settings and in preparatory experiences to help those students succeed in the community.*

## **OUR STEPS**

*Students are identified for this experience through a case conference committee selection process. In secondary level direct transition services, vocational education needs are looked at continually. In our model, students are directed at an opportunity based on their specific strengths, skills and needs. The program model includes an expectation for growth and the supports needed to facilitate that growth occur. Our programs are continually reviewed for quality and a continuum of services starting from the least restrictive method of providing vocational opportunities in the community at large is always the goal.*

## **IN OUR OWN WORDS**

**"I never realized how much the South LaPorte County Cooperative emphasized job training in their students' programs."- (said a new teacher to our Cooperative in 2015).**

**"I just love being able to show people who I am, and for them to see me work."-student, ASPIRE Internship 2015-16 school year.**

**"This program is a model community work experience program." – community business partner CEO**

For more information about our school or corporation, email:

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